



**Permuda Island Reserve
Local Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 24, 2013, 10a**

LAC Members	Affiliation/Interest	Present
Mr. Nathan Henry	DCR Archaeology	Yes
Ms. Deb Hill	Town of N. Topsail Beach	Yes
Mr. Stuart Turille	Town of N. Topsail Beach	Yes
Mr. Mike Yawn	Adjacent property owner	Yes
Mr. Mike Giles	N.C. Coastal Federation	Yes
Chief C.J. Fillinger	Town of N. Topsail Beach Police Dept	Yes
Others in Attendance		
Paula Gillikin	DCM, Central Sites Manager	
Thomas Best	Town of N. Topsail Beach – Public Works	

Reserve Update – Paula Gillikin

- The Reserve will soon be hiring two temporary contract positions, an Environmental Educator in the Wilmington office and a Communications Specialist to be based in the Beaufort office. The Environmental Educator will focus their efforts at the Masonboro Island site. The communications staff person will focus on the Reserve website, social media, and public relations campaigns related to visitor use issues at several of the Reserve sites.

Permuda Island Site Update – Paula Gillikin

- A report was given on the January 16 site visit that was conducted by Nathan and Paula.
- During its annual crab pot clean-up, Marine Patrol removed 40 derelict pots from Permuda and the surrounding waters.
- A report was given on an SBI investigation that took place on the island last year. Site visitors found human remains, which were determined to be of Native American origin.

- A plan for site management was reviewed. This included protection of cultural and environmental resources in response to erosion, increasing local recognition of the site as a protected area, and enhancing natural heritage records.

Member Roundtable and Other Comments

- A shoreline protection and restoration project would address erosion issues in addition to loss of cultural resources. The benefit to both the environment and cultural resources would help secure funding from non-traditional funding sources.
- The committee agrees that the shoreline should be surveyed to ensure valuable archaeological information is not lost. Nathan and Paula will try to do this 2-3 times per year. Recruiting UNCW students or researchers to survey the shoreline would be useful.
- The committee would like to have two meetings per year: one in a formal meeting setting, the other during an annual field trip to the site.
- The committee agreed that when illegal activities are found to be occurring at the site, notes should be posted letting the visitors know the management status of the island and the rules. Caution should be exercised when addressing these situations, as dangerous illegal activities are known to occur in remote locations. A limited number of signs should be placed around the site letting visitors know that the site is managed as a reserve.
- Pursuing a designation on the National Register of Historic Places could add an extra layer of legal protection for the site, support funding opportunities (e.g. artifact preservation via natural shoreline protection), and enhance community pride. Alternatively, it may attract unwanted attention (artifact hunters) to the island. The site was nominated to the National Historic Register in the 1980s, but the process was not finalized.
- Stuart emphasized the importance of the role (or potential role) of Reserve sites such as Permuda to serve as indicators of environmental change. The community might be interested in how protected areas such as Permuda positively impact important nearby resources, such as the water quality in Stump Sound. Paula explained that some other Reserve sites (Rachel Carson and Masonboro) have monitoring in place to help quantify and characterize change.
- Mike emphasized the importance of acknowledging the fine balance between protection of Permuda's resources and attracting unwanted visitation that could potentially be damaging.
- Nathan brought a selection of Native American artifacts for the members to view.

Public Comments

None

Meeting follow up

Paula Gillikin will send out presentation slides and Stump Sound water quality data sources via email. She will also follow up to schedule a field trip for LAC members to be held in May.